

# Wisconsin Food Stamp Program At a Glance

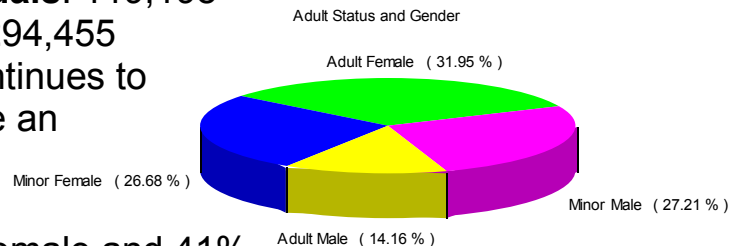
All data is for (or as of) the month of February, 2003<sup>1</sup>

## Who gets food stamps in Wisconsin?

- **Poverty:** 5.5% of the 5.4 million people in Wisconsin receive FS.<sup>2</sup> On average from 1998 - 2000, 8.8% of the state population was at or below the federal poverty rate.<sup>3</sup>

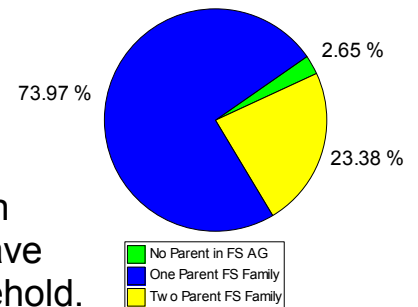
- **Assistance Groups (AGs)/Individuals:** 119,198

Assistance groups are made up of 294,455 individuals. The number of AGs continues to increase at a steady rate. There are an average of 2.5 people in an AG.



- **Gender:** 59% of the recipients are female and 41% are male.

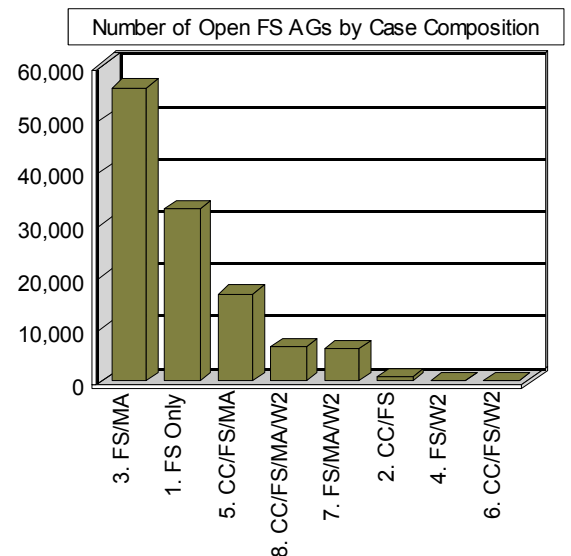
- **Adults/Minors:** 46% are adults while 54% are minors. 59.5% of AGs have minors in them.



- **Minors and Their Parents:** Of the AGs that contain minors, 74.0% have one parent in the AG, 23.4% have two parents, and 2.7% have no parents in the household. "Parent" is defined as a biological or adoptive parent.

- **Parents That Are Minors:** 1,007 minors in 980 FS AGs are parents. That's 1/3 of 1 percent of the individuals that receive FS.

- **Case Composition:** The graph on the right shows other types of CARES issued assistance that a FS AG receives.

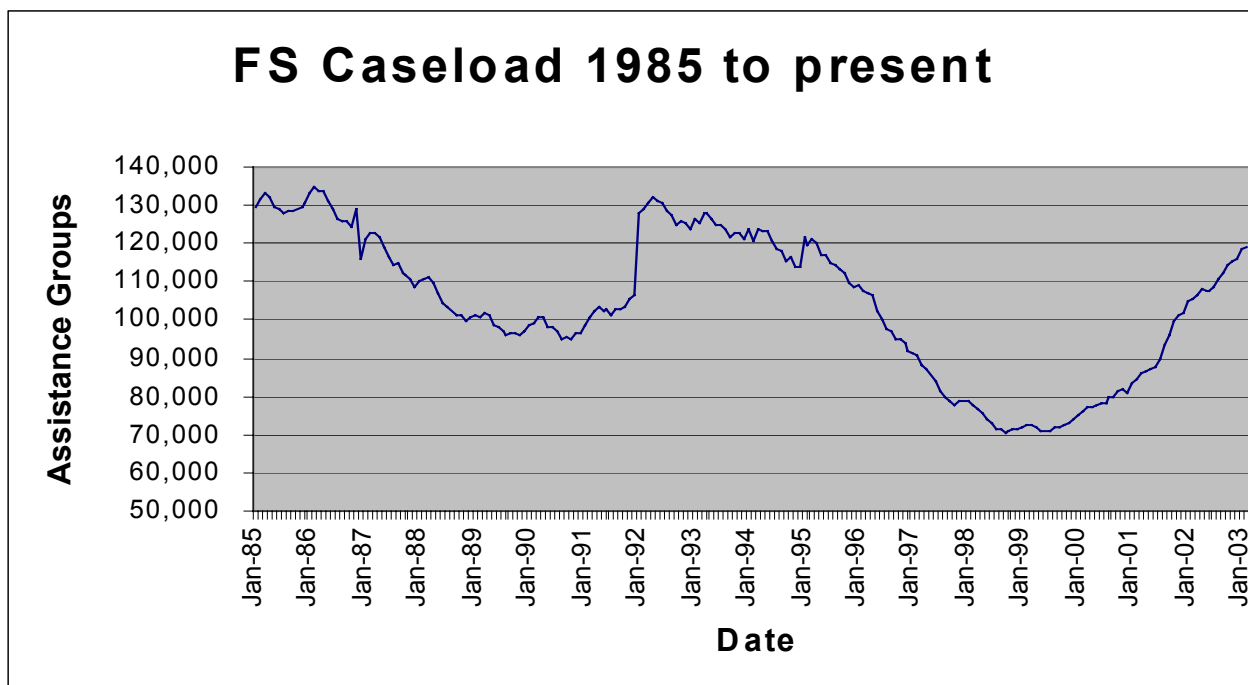


<sup>1</sup> Source: DWD/DWS FS Data Warehouse

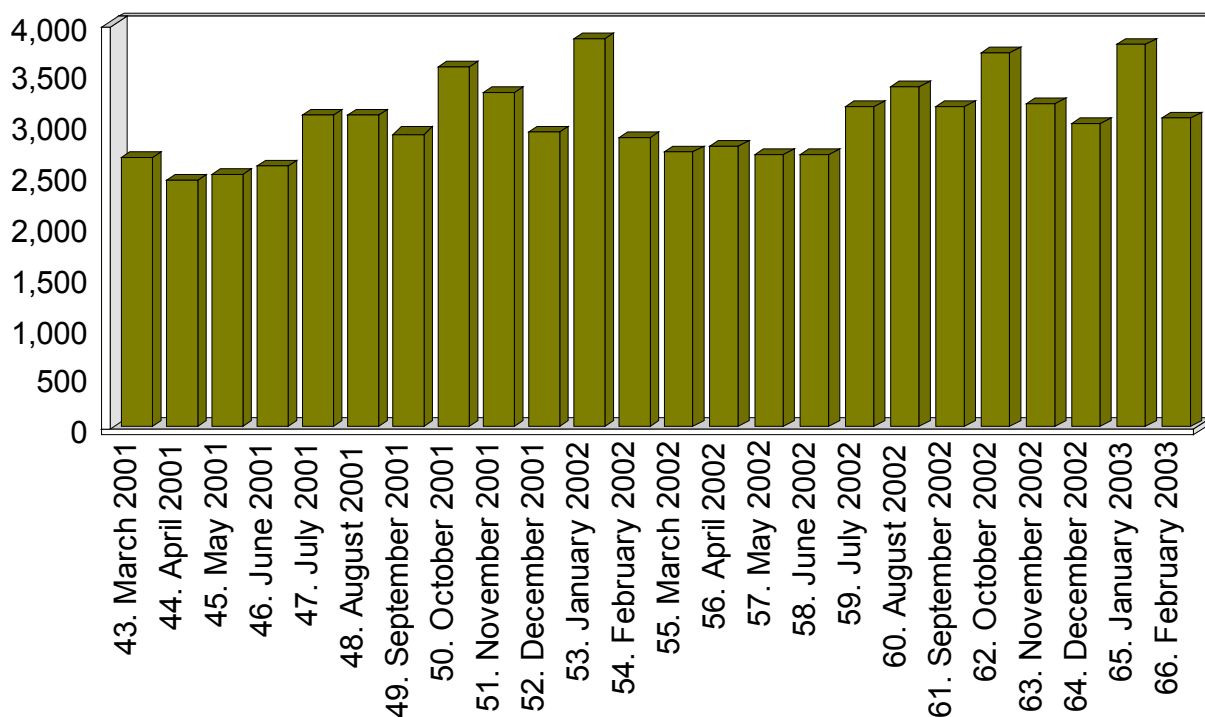
<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html>

<sup>3</sup> Source: U. S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p60-214.pdf>

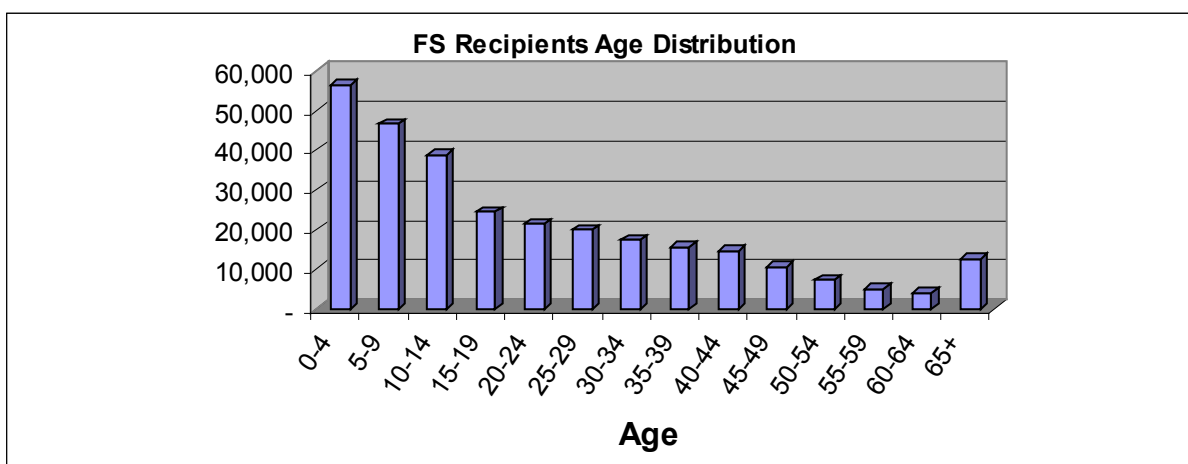
- **Historical Caseload Trend:** The statewide caseload had been increasing at a steady rate since September of 1999.



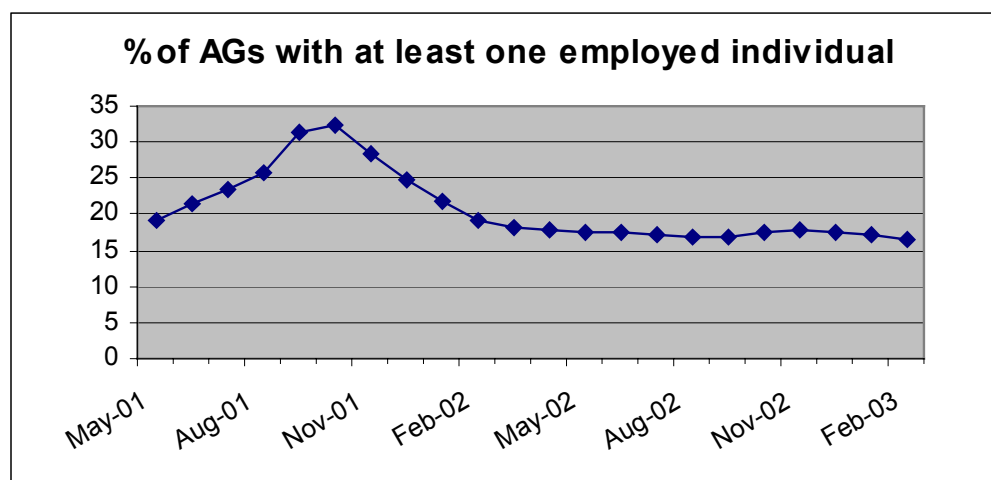
- **First Time FS Recipients:** This chart shows the number of first-time FS assistance groups over the last 2 years. Only AGs that have never received FS in Wisconsin before the month shown appear in this chart. For February 2003, 3,077 FS AGs received FS for the first time.



- **Age Distribution:** The chart below shows the number of FS recipients by age, in ranges of 5 years. The largest age group is comprised of children under age 4.



- **Elderly/Disabled:** 17% of FS recipients are either elderly, blind, or disabled. 41% of AGs contain at least one individual that is either elderly, blind, or disabled.
- **Work/Earnings:** 16.6% of the AGs have at least one person working. This is a decrease of .6% from last month. The average monthly earned income of those AGs' is \$974, a 1.9% decrease from last month.<sup>4</sup> 32.4% of adult FS recipients are employed, slightly fewer than last month. Currently, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin is 5.3%, .1% less than last month.<sup>5</sup>



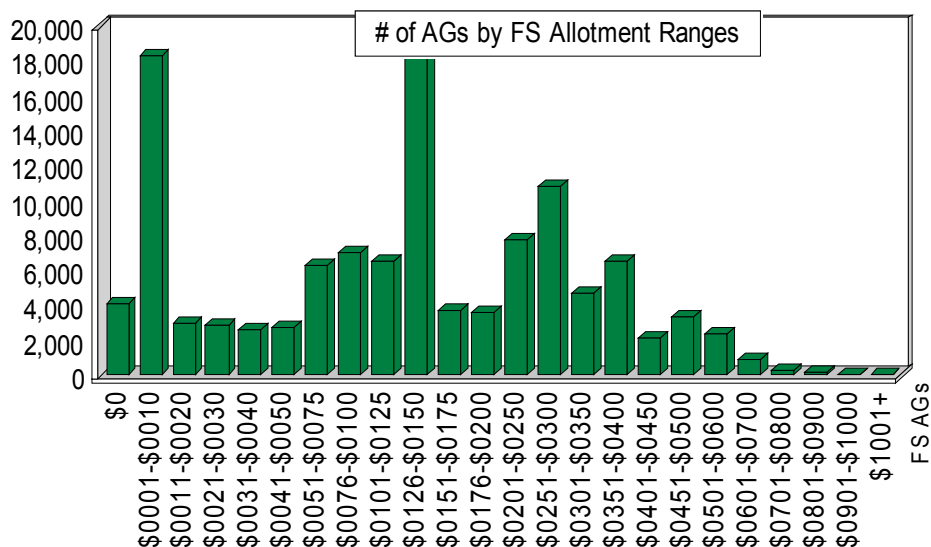
<sup>4</sup> This statistic contains prospective income for cases that may have caused the case to close at the end of the report month. Therefore, the income reported here was not necessarily the income used to calculate eligibility for the allotment amount.

<sup>5</sup> Source: DWD Labor Market Information at [http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/employ\\_civilianlaborForce.htm](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/employ_civilianlaborForce.htm)

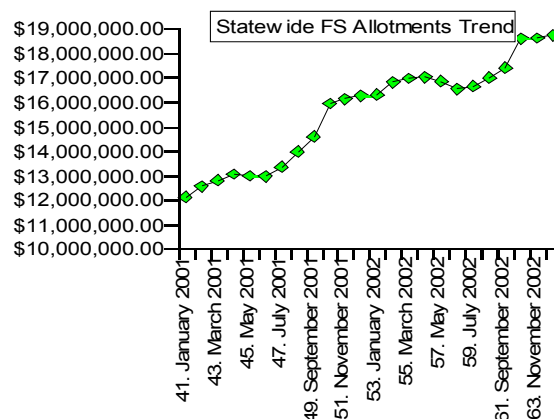
- **Working Families:** A "working family" is defined as a FS AG that contains at least one minor, at least one parent of a minor, and at least one employed recipient. This is an attempt to explore those FS recipients that have children and are working. Working families make up 27.6% of the statewide FS AGs, average about 4 persons per AG, and average \$1,133 in earned income per month. Other stats are available below.

Parent in FS AG	FS AGs	Unduplicated FS Recipients	AG Earned Income Amt	Avg. Earned Income per AG	AG Unearned Income Amt	Avg. Unearned Income per AG	FS Allotment Amt - FTM	Avg. Allotment per AG
One Parent FS Family	23,345	75,049	\$24,719,948.78	\$1,058.90	\$4,656,378.11	\$199.46	\$3,888,911.00	\$166.58
Two Parent FS Family	9,572	45,896	\$12,566,230.64	\$1,312.81	\$2,076,469.57	\$216.93	\$2,421,581.00	\$252.99
Sum:	32,917	120,945	\$37,286,179.42		\$6,732,847.68	Sum:	\$6,310,492.00	

- **Allotments:** A total of \$19.4 million in food stamp benefits were allotted for the month. The average allotment amount per AG is \$163. The average allotment for AGs that contain an elderly, blind, or disabled member is \$98. However, 22.4% of the caseload only receives between \$0 and \$10 in allotments. Allotments have increased an average of 14.6% in the last 12 benefit months.



- **Statewide FS Allotments:** The graph on the right shows the total dollars in FS allotments spent on all FS AGs statewide for the past two years.



- **Quality Control Error Rate Data:** For FFY 2001, Wisconsin's error rate was 13.14 %. The national average was 8.66%. The average error rate<sup>6</sup> for FFY 2002 (October 2001 - September 2002) is 12.3%. This is Wisconsin's final reported error rate estimate for FFY 2002. Previous years' data is found below:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Federal Target</b>	<b>Wisconsin Error Rate</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Sanction Liability</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>10.31%</b>	<b>10.05%</b>	<b>-.26%</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>1992</b>	<b>10.31%</b>	<b>9.32%</b>	<b>-.99%</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>10.81%</b>	<b>9.51%</b>	<b>-1.30%</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>10.32%</b>	<b>10.51%</b>	<b>+.19%</b>	<b>\$8,544.00</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>+2.40%</b>	<b>\$1,370,000.00</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>11.61%</b>	<b>+2.41%</b>	<b>\$1,224,955.00</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>9.89%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>+3.81%</b>	<b>\$2,200,000.00</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>10.69%</b>	<b>14.58%</b>	<b>+3.89%</b>	<b>\$689,391.00</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>9.88%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>+1.92%</b>	<b>\$606,466.00</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>8.91%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>+3.09%</b>	<b>\$1,671,222.00</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>8.66%</b>	<b>13.14%</b>	<b>+4.48%</b>	<b>\$2,873,308.00</b> <b>(in appeal status)</b>

<sup>6</sup>The Processing of QC error rate data may take up to 5 months to process from the end of the reporting month.